

single sheet metal blank, although it should be understood that they could be made of other materials capable of absorbing a compression loading.

Referring to FIGS. 3-7, in one embodiment of the side panel, the back 38 thereof includes a pair of lugs 46 formed along an inboard edge 47 of the back panel section. The term "lug" as used herein is meant to be interpreted broadly as including any sleeve, loop, hook, ring, protuberance or other structural configuration capable of engaging a shaft, rod or other post type member, whether alone or in combination with one or more adjacent staggered lugs. The lugs 46 are preferably formed by bending or forming a portion of the side panel into a loop to form the sleeve and opening. The side panel 30 also includes a pair of lugs 48 formed along a front edge 49 thereof, with the lugs again preferably formed from a portion of the panel and having coaxially aligned openings. In addition, the front 36 of the side panel include a curved region 45, which again increases the structural rigidity of the side panel and is resistant to buckling and/or bending. Referring to FIGS. 3, 4 and 6, a plurality of bosses (shown as four), each having a hole 41 therethrough, protrude inwardly from the side panel section.

Various rails and/or drawers can be secured to the bosses. For example, referring to FIG. 21, a drawer guide 140 is shown as including four pairs of lugs 142, 144. The front or back lugs of each pair can be aligned with the holes in the side panel, with fasteners securing the drawer guide to the side panel. Referring to FIGS. 21 and 22, the drawer guide defines a plurality of channels 146 forming a plurality of rails 148 extending from a front to a back thereof, with the channels open 150 to the front of the drawer guide. File folder hangers and drawers can be inserted in the channels and supported on the rails. The drawer guide is preferably made of a polypropylene, structural foam material, although it should be understood that it could also be made of metal, e.g. by stamping, or other molded plastics.

In an alternative embodiment, shown in FIG. 2, the side panel further includes a middle third support lug 148 or sleeve formed along the front edge 49 thereof. The third sleeve 148 has an opening therethrough that is aligned

with the openings in the sleeves 48. The upper and lower support lugs 48 are each spaced from the middle support lug 148 so as to form two openings therebetween respectively.

In either embodiment, the bottom 34 of the side panel 30 is disposed 5 and supported on an upper surface of the lower shelf. A bottom surface 28 of the next upper shelf 12 is then disposed and supported on a top 32 of the side panels.

As best shown in FIGS. 2 and 8-12, the back panel 50 is preferably 10 generally rectangular in shape and has a top 52, a bottom 54 and opposite side edges 50. The back panel 50 extends between the back panel sections 40 of the side panel and is connected thereto with a pair of tie members 110. The back panel includes a pair of lugs 62 formed along each of the opposite side edges thereof. The lugs 62 are formed as a rearwardly facing hook, having an inner diameter shaped to receive the tie member 110. The back panel further 15 includes an inwardly facing trough portion 64, or lug, that is staggered with and runs along the side edge between the lugs 62. The trough 64 has an inner diameter shaped to receive the tie member. The staggered lugs 62, 64 form an opening therebetween when viewed from a top of the panel. The lugs 62 of the back panel are spaced from the top and bottom 52, 54 of the back panel 20 respectively such that they are disposed between and form openings that are coaxially aligned with the pairs of lugs 46 formed along the back of the side panels.

The back panel preferably includes an arch-shaped opening 68 formed 25 along a bottom 54 thereof. The opening 68 provides an ideal location to pass electrical lines, cables and other wiring or utilities from inside the storage unit to a backside thereof. The back panel 50 is preferably made of a hard plastic material, and more preferably of an ABS thermoplastic material, although it should be understood that it could be made of plastics and of other materials, such as metal or wood. The back panel is preferably translucent, but can 30 alternatively be made transparent or opaque. The back panel is preferably molded with a plurality of ribs 66 that form elliptical, triangular, and diamond

shaped recesses **70, 72** therebetween. The ribs increase the structural rigidity and strength of the back panel.

As best shown in FIGS. 13-18, a pair of front panel **80**, or doors, are shown. The front panel **80** is preferably symmetrical and can be used interchangeable on the left and right side of the storage unit. Each front panel **80** is preferably generally rectangular in shape and has a top **82**, a bottom **84** and opposite side edges **86**. The front panels, in combination, extend between the fronts **36** of the side panels and are connected thereto with a pair of tie members **110**. Each front panel **80** includes a pair of lugs **88** formed along one side edge thereof. The lugs **88** are preferably formed as a forwardly facing hook, having an inner diameter shaped to receive the tie member. The front panel **80** further includes a rearwardly facing trough portion **90**, or lug, that is staggered with and runs along the side edge **86** between the lugs **88**. The trough **90** has an inner diameter shaped to receive the tie member. As shown in FIGS. 16 and 17, the trough **90** and the hook **88** form an opening therebetween, which is shaped to receive the tie member, when viewed from a top of the panel. In essence, the lugs **48, 88** of the front and side panels form a hinge, which is connected with a hinge pin **110**.

The front panel preferably includes a one-half dome shaped handle **92** that extends from a front **94** of the panel along a side opposite the lugs. The handle **92** forms an opening **96** in which a finger can be inserted for gripping by a user. The front panel is preferably made of a hard plastic material, and more preferably an ABS thermoplastic material, although it should be understood that it could be made of other materials, such as metal or wood, and other plastics. As with the back panel, the front panels also are preferably translucent, but can alternatively be made transparent or opaque. The front panel **80** is preferably molded with a plurality of ribs **100** that form elliptical, triangular and diamond shaped recesses **102, 104** therebetween. The ribs **100** increase the structural rigidity and strength of the front panel. A pair of bosses **106** extend rearwardly from the front panel at a top and bottom corner thereof along the side of the front panel opposite the lugs. A magnetic catch